

Message Text

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12

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 /077 W

----- 042407

R 271815Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY BANJUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3528

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANJUL 0769

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, LY, GA

SUBJ: CONTINUING CONCERN WITH LIBYAN PRESENCE

REF: A. BANJUL 0725, B. BANJUL 0550

1. IN JULY 23 TOUR D'HORIZON WITH GOTG SEC GEN CHRISTENSEN (RECENTLY RETURNED FROM MAURITIUS OAU SESSION), CHARGE COMMENTED ON GROWING LIBYAN PRESENCE IN BANJUL. FORMER REMARKED HE TOO BECOMING CONCERNED, SAID GOTG NOW CAREFULLY STUDYING SIZE LIBYAN CONTINGENT WITH VIEW TOWARD PLACING POSSIBLE LIMITATION. CHRIS TENSEN SAID LIBYANS HAD ASKED MINEXTAF FOR DIP LICENSE PLATE #13, REQUEST WHICH IS BEING HELD UP PENDING OVERALL REVIEW. SEC GEN NOTED "RUMOR" 70 LIBYANS WOULD BE WORKING IN GAMBIA (REF B), AND SAID GOTG WOULD NOT PERMIT SO LARGE A STAFF.

2. LATER CHARGE SPOKE WITH UK ACTING HICOM WHO SAID HMG INCREASINGLY WORRIED ABOUT LIBYAN ROLE HERE. HE SAID PROMINENT LOCAL LEBANESE BUSINESSMAN HAD EXPRESSED FEARS OF LIBYA TO HICOM. MOREOVER, BRITISH HAVE SOME REPORTS THAT LIBYAN MONEY MAY BE FLOWING TO PRESIDENT JAWARA'S CHIEF POLITICAL OPPONENT NCP LEADER SHERIFF DIBBA (WE HAVE NOT

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RPT NO CONFIRMATION THIS ALLEGATION). ACCORDING ACTING HICOM,

GOTG'S RECENTLY RETIRED POLICE INSPECTOR GENERAL
(A CATHOLIC) IS SUFFICIENTLY EXERCISED THAT HE PLANS DIRECT
DEMARCHE TO SIR DAWDA ABOUT LIBYAN "PROBLEM."

3. LOCAL CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY, SMALL BUT POWERFUL, IS
INCREASINGLY UNEASY ABOUT LIBYAN INTENTIONS. GOTG QUITE WILLING
ACCEPT HELP FROM ALMOST ANY SOURCE, AND HAS BEEN PLEASED
RECEIVE LIBYAN LARGESSE, BUT WOULD BE MOST UNLIKELY
ACCEPT LIBYAN OPERATIONAL ROLE HERE. THERE WOULD BE NO
LOGICAL REASON FOR LIBYA TO WANT DESTABILIZATION JAWARA
GOVERNMENT, HOWEVER, IT APPARENT LOGIC DOES NOT ALWAYS
DICTATE LIBYAN POLICIES. UNFORTUNATELY, LIBYANS IN GAMBIA
REPRESENT POTENTIALLY POTENT WILD CARD, WITH UNPREDICTABLE
CONSEQUENCES OF WHERE, WHEN, AND HOW CARD MAY BE PLAYED.
WYGANT

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